

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

1 From your plan -- before we have all
2 this for long time, we had a committee here,
3 this is person right here and I'm the member.
4 And sometime we have a meeting here, promise
5 to us, we want to clean up right away, you
6 know, and take a long time to clean up.

7 And then after you say you wanted to
8 do some investigation and all this here, and
9 you say that some federal funds to some -- you
10 know, some type of thing, this cleanup here.
11 And take a long time. We no hear for long
12 time and now, you know, what going on here?
13 Because I can't understand some of the places,
14 you know. You own the property, the
15 government say, "you clean up this or else."
16 If you don't, go to jail or something.

17 Now, the government has all this
18 problem here and look like you no do nothing,
19 take a long time, say, years and years and
20 years, and look like they don't care if people
21 die or not. To me, I'm too old right now,
22 some of the young kids, you know, I have a lot
23 of grandkids and all the families here and
24 everything, you know. And I think anybody up
25 high, you know, like president or some

But this family in
trailer couldn't even read
But what were told
They've gone to school now,

Malaga cleanup will resume after study

By RUSSELL CLEMINGS
Bee staff writer

After more than two years of delays, the cleanup of the Purity Oil Sales hazardous waste site in Malaga is scheduled to move into a second phase as soon as the federal Environmental Protection Agency begins a new series of tests for soil and ground water contamination.

EPA officials said the new tests are needed because an earlier study, on which the state Department of Health Services spent \$749,500, failed to determine adequately the extent of the pollution at Purity, a former waste-oil recycling plant at Maple Avenue and Golden State Boulevard.

The budget for the new EPA tests is nearly \$1.2 million, money that will come primarily from the federal government's \$9.5 billion Superfund program for cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites.

EPA's plans signal a resumption of work on the Purity site. It was stalled from early 1985, when EPA workers scooped up and hauled away contaminated dirt from several parts of the site, until early this year.

The delay was partly because of the controversy following an EPA audit that sharply criticized state ac-

tions at Purity and two other sites, and partly because Congress took a year to give the Superfund program a new supply of cash after its original funding ran out in October 1985.

EPA spokesman Terry Wilson said agency officials are making some last-minute revisions in their test plans for the Purity site, a process that will take at least a month. Wilson said he cannot predict when testing will actually begin at the site.

From 1934 until about 1975, the Purity site was used to recycle waste oil from service stations, car dealerships, military bases and other sources. It was closed after a fire in 1975 and sat unused until it was sold at auction in 1979 for back taxes.

After learning of the contamination at the site in 1980, the buyer sued to have the sale voided, and in 1982 a Superior Court judge ordered the state to reclaim ownership.

In late 1983 and early 1984, a state contractor visited the site to take samples of the soil and ground water, and later compiled the first study of the site, which was released in draft form in November 1984.

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Malaga

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The following spring, an EPA emergency response team went to the site. The workers carted away several barrels of contaminated soil and water left by the state contractor, and dug out 10 areas of contaminated soil, some of them to a depth of six feet.

EPA officials note in their plans for the new tests, however, that the emergency workers said they left behind heavily contaminated soil at greater depths.

In addition, both the state contractor and the EPA workers noted that wastes from the site appeared to have seeped or spilled over onto neighboring properties in several places, including the North Central irrigation canal, which borders the Purity site on the south. Tests of the canal water showed no dangerous chemical concentrations, however.

Although the Purity site is in an industrial area and is surrounded mainly by junkyards, it is bordered on the north by the small Tall Trees mobile home park, where dozens of children live. A chain link fence topped with barbed wire was erected around the Purity site in 1984 to

keep the children out.

Past testing, including samples taken by the EPA emergency team, has shown high levels of several toxic metals and organic chemicals in the soil and ground water at the Purity site.

In one place near Maple Avenue, tests showed benzene at 388 parts per billion in the ground water. Benzene is a known cause of cancer in humans, and the state's "action level" for that chemical in drinking water is 0.7 ppb.

EPA officials said their new investigation is designed to determine the precise size of the underground plumes of contaminated ground water so that plans can be made to clean it up.

Tests also will be done on the remaining contaminated soil at the Purity site to determine how much of it there is and what chemicals it contains. The EPA work plan notes that the earlier state study did not even determine whether the soil was polluted enough to be classified as a hazardous waste, which would require special disposal procedures.

In addition, tests are planned on the contents of several large steel tanks that remain on the site. They contain unknown solids and liquids.

The Lab made mistakes and lied in there testing

*There trying not to let us see But under Dick - A Port
There's more tanks more toxics, They also be ashamed
though Cause the water tables ~~are~~ under these Rotten
grounds - Leaking, I'm sure - Purity*

PARA TODAS LAS FAMILIAS
DE MALAGA

PELIGRO

LES VOY A DECIR EN
POCAS PALABRAS DE LOS
PELIGROS DEL FEN TOXICOEN
MALAGA. AL EMPEZAR DE LOS
80'S, TOXICOS SE METIERON
EN SU AGUA. Y AHORA
LA GENTE ESTAN QUEMADO
LOS TOXICO EN INCENDIOOR.



SI LOS MIEMBROS DE SU
FAMILIA TIENEN CANCER DE CUALQUIER TIPO O SU NIÑO
DEBES, O NIETO SE HAN MUERTO. Y SI USTED TIENE
DIFICULTAD RESPIRANDO, TAMBIEN HAY MUCHO MAS GEN
COMO USTED QUE SUFREN DE ESTOS SYMPTOMAS DESDE LOS
EMPEZAR DE LOS 80'S. Y YO DESCUBRI DE ESTOS 3 AÑOS
DE LOS PELIGROS DE LOS TOXICOS. POR FAVOR HANAME
CON SU HISTORIA. YO TENGO ABOGADOS QUE LO ASEN
BIEN YA NO VA VER MAS MUERTES.

//AMA A. ANNA - 442-3150

POR FAVOR NO TOME LA AGUA
//AVE. SOLAMENTE DE BOTELLAS

*"I delivered to Every House"
Trailer in Malaga 1996*

TOME AGUA
EN JARRO DE LA TIENDA

CUBRE SUS VENTANAS
CON PLASTICO

HOLA, MI NOMBRE ES ANA. VANGO A TRAER A USTED
Y SU FAMILIA UN MENSAJE MUY IMPORTANTE. ESTOS
CORTES DE TRAILEROS, Y ARBOLES ESTAN SOBRE
TERRENOS PELIGROSOS. ESTOS TERRENOS JUNTO DE
USTED DEJAN SALIR VENENOS PELIGROSOS EN EL
AIRE. EL AIRE QUE USTED Y SU FAMILIA RESPIRAN.
NO LOS PUEDE VER, PERO LOS RESPIRAN. SON
PELIGROSOS, NO DEJE QUE SUS HIJOS JUEGEN EN LOS
TERRENOS. SI DEJA A SUS NIÑOS JUGAR EN LOS
TERRENOS, SE ENFERMARAN. YO TENGO UNA HISTORIA
EN ESTO. PERO HAY TIEMPO PARA EXPLICAR.
SI USTED O SU FAMILIA ANDAN ENFERMOS
PIENSE EN EL PISO QUE USTED ANDA, SI USTED
SUFRE DE, VOMITO, SANGRE DE LA NARIS, SE LE ESTA
CALLENDOL EL PELO, BOLAS SOBRE EL PIEL, PNEUMONIA,
PROBLEMAS CON LA VISTA, CORAZON, TUMORES, CANCERES,
O DEBE ENFERMO, USTED PUEDE MORIR. POR FAVOR,
HABLE CON SUS VECINOS Y CON LOS NIÑOS; YO SE
QUE ESTA ES SU CASA PERO LA CIUDAD NO TE VA
DECIR LA VERDAD, TAMPOCO LOS DOCTORES. PERO YO
ENCUENTRO ESPERANZA, EN ROSARITO, JUNTO LA FRONTERA
DE MEXICO; ALLI MI DOCTOR TE LIMPIARA TU CUERPO
DE ESTOS PESTICIDAS Y OTROS TOXICOS EN LA
SANGRE. SI USTED COMPRENDE DE LOS PLATICOS.
POR FAVOR HABLE CON SU VECINOS. SU CIUDAD DE
MALAGA ES UNA CIUDAD DE TOXICOS. LLAMAME SI
TIENE PREGUNTAS -ANNA- 442-3150